

Response to editor comments on second revision of “Stratospheric ozone trends for 1985–2018: sensitivity to recent large variability”
by W. T. Ball et al

Response

We thank the editor for his response and suggestions. We respond to specific points as follows (black are the editor's comment, blue our response).

Thank you for addressing the reviewers' comments. I have one non-specific recommendation and one specific one. The non-specific one is that there are a lot of very long sentences, with colons or semi-colons in the middle. They could usefully be changed to full stops to make the text more accessible to the reader.

We were happy to make the paper clearer and have removed 32 instances of the semi-colon, as mentioned. We kept three cases where its use remained appropriate or clarity couldn't easily be improved (near lines 207, 318 and 336).

The specific one is that you should have another look at the para on future projections on line 542 to see if the various points you make can be made more clearly / distinctly. The addition of text has made the logic less clear.

We have heavily modified the first half of this paragraph and believe it is clearer now.

I would also add a sentence around lines 57-60 re-raising the issue of longitudinal variations in trends as being worthy of future work - that can be shorter than what you have put in the intro.

We considered the editor's suggestion, and while we agree it is worth pointing out this future avenue of research to open, we instead included it as follows. We modified the text to split the paragraph where the discussion moves from the negative ozone trends over to previous investigations of wave activity driving the changes longitudinally (break at line 62), and have inserted the suggested sentence at line 67.